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12914 Broadmore Rd
Colesville, MD 20904
December 27, 1992

Donna R. Searcy
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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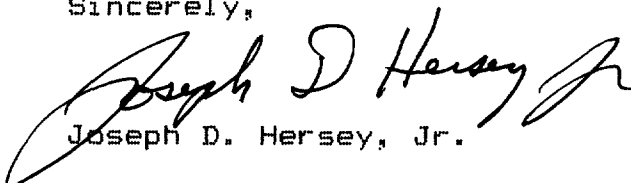
JAN 13 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mrs. Searcy:

Enclosed are comments of concerned parents concerning lawfulness of channelling certain political ads to "Safe Harbors", Docket 92-254. Please provide a copy to each Commissioner.

Sincerely,


Joseph D. Hersey, Jr.

Enclosure: Comments of Concerned Parents

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JAN 13 1993

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of)
)
Lawfulness of Channelling) FCC Docket 92-254
Certain Political Ads to)
"Safe Harbors")

To: The Commission

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JAN 13 1993

COMMENTS OF CONCERNED PARENTS

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Most of us are parents of small children who are exposed daily to television broadcasts by the media. We are responsible for the upbringing, education and moral development of our children. We understand that our children will be influenced by our actions and character, but know also they will be affected by what they see on television. Although we regularly review and discuss with our children what they watch on television, what they see will stay with them forever, and may influence their moral character as adults. For this reason, we have an interest in this proceeding.

Your request for comments noted that the Mass Media Bureau issued two rulings regarding the lawfulness under the "reasonable access" provision of Section 312(a)(7) of the Communications Act, concerning moving "Pro Life" political advertising to indecency "safe harbor" (late night) periods. In the first decision, the Bureau denied a petition by Gillett Communications (WAGA-TV) to declare a pro-life political ad depicting what abortion really is (an aborted pre-born baby) as "excretory activity" and therefore indecent. We applaud that decision. In the second decision, the Bureau denied a complaint filed by a political candidate against WAGA-TV for its refusal to air the candidate's political program "Abortion in America: The Real Story" outside the safe harbor for indecent material, because the station "in good faith" considered the material to be indecent. We oppose that second decision.

We strongly support the Commission's policy of limiting indecent material to "safe harbor" periods when our children are unlikely to be watching TV. Indeed, we would prefer that this material be prohibited altogether, but understand the Commission's legal limitations in doing so. We appreciate your doing what you can. But it is **WRONG** to use the Commission's indecency laws as an excuse for denying the right of a pro-life candidate to freely express his or her views and ideas, about a controversial, moral, political matter affecting every American!

We see such action by WAGA-TV as an opportunity to use a rule unpopular to most of the media (i.e. the Commission's "Safe Harbor" indecency rule) as an opportunity to kill a political movement also unpopular to most of the media (i.e. the pro-life movement). Perhaps they are seeking some court to kill both the rule and the movement with one decision. God forbid!

The moral character of our nation has been enhanced by the right and ability of every American to express his or her ideas and beliefs freely. That right is especially important to political candidates, where the ability to debate and compare ideas and beliefs are essential for a democracy to survive. If the media, which has enormous influence in the outcome of political elections, is allowed to suppress the ideas of one candidate it disfavors by declaring them "indecent", then we may have lost the right to call ourselves a democracy. Sometimes it is necessary to see an aborted pre-born baby in order to understand and realize what abortion is and means. If graphic depictions of an aborted pre-born baby can be considered "indecent", then one could decide that graphic depictions of victims of Germany's World War II holocaust are also "indecent", and must be deferred to hours when our nation's youth would be unlikely to learn the truth of that evil, and learn that it must never be allowed to be repeated. Or perhaps graphic depictions of the worst examples of racism in our country could also be forced off the air to hours where our children might never see it as the evil that it truly is. Evil survives only in the darkness; it can never survive exposure. Pro-lifers believe that abortion is a similar evil, which must be exposed. Protecting a women's right to abortion by keeping abortion itself in the dark, by declaring it "indecent", is as wrong as protecting racism by keeping it hidden for the same reason! It must not be allowed to happen!

If WAGA-TV cannot truly tell the difference between "excretory activities" that have no redeeming value and the "idea" that abortion is wrong, then they have no right to use the scarce amount of radio spectrum allotted to it by the American people for broadcasting. Its license ought to be withdrawn.

In conclusion, we urge the Commission bar any use of its "safe harbor" provisions regarding indecency as an excuse by any broadcast media to ban pro-life views, or any political views, or "channel" those views toward a time when voters are unlikely to learn of them.

Elizabeth G. Kelley (7 Jan 93)

Theodore C Carroll
Theodore C Carroll
Dec 2 1992

Joseph D Hershey Jr.
Joseph D. Hershey, Jr.
3 DEC 1992

James J. McConnell
James J. McConnell
12/2/92

Ronald E. Moore
Ronald E. Moore
Dec. 3, 1992

Karl Krueger
Karl Krueger
12/2/92

David R. Payne
David R. Payne
12/3/92

Paul F. Ross
PAUL F. ROSS
12/3/92

Bonnie J. Moore
Bonnie J. Moore
Jan. 7, 92

Richard L. McLaughlin
RICHARD L. McGLAUGHLIN
12/3/92

Peter E. Kelley
Peter E. Kelley
3 Dec 92

Celeste K. Hersey
Celeste K. Hersey
1/7/93

David C. Fyle
DAVID C. FYLE
12/16/92

Iona Fekete-McLaughlin
Iona Fekete-McLaughlin
12/18/92

Susan Payne
Susan Payne
12/19/92

Joyce Milasuk-Ross
JOYCE MILASUK-ROSS 1-7-93
PRO-LIFE

Dale E. Copp
Dale E. Copp
12/25/92

Brenda K. Krueger
Brenda K. Krueger 1/7/93

Sandra J. Copp
Sandra J. Copp
12/25/92

Nanci Witorsch 1/7/93

Tamara S. Kellen
Tamara S. Kellen 1/7/93